Land for Nuclear Power Projects

†466. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA :
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that two places in the country have been identified for setting up of nuclear power projects by the American Companies;

(b) if so, the names of these places and the estimates of the land required for the present and future outlay of projects at each place; and

(c) the area of agricultural land out of the land marked for each project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) to (c) Selection of sites for nuclear power projects is an ongoing process. Finalization of sites for future domestic programme as well as for projects with international co-operation is under consideration of the Government. No final decision has been taken in this regard.

Chinese Plan to divert Brahmaputra River

*467. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Eastern Army Command has sent a report on China's ambitious plan to divert Brahmaputra from the point of the 'Great Bend' to its territory by digging a tunnel in its part of Himalayas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to prevent any disturbance in the flow of the mighty river to our territory?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) India and China have established an expert-level mechanism to discuss interaction and cooperation on all issues regarding trans-border rivers. The India-China Expert Level Mechanism on Trans Boarder Rivers had held three meetings in September 2007, April, 2008, and April 2009. The Expert Level Mechanism provides the inter-Governmental forum to discuss relevant issues relating to India-China trans-border rivers.

Revenue collection system

*468. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CAG report has criticized BSNL's revenue collection system under which its arrears have climbed to Rs. 7,502 crore during 2007-08, compared to Rs. 7,376 crore in the preveious year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether nearly Rs. 4,226 crore is considered doubtful recovery and the biggest defaulters are private subscribers having Rs. 4,185 crore as outstanding; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by BSNL to recover the arrears?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SHRI SACHIN PILOT) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. However, BSNL's Revenue arrears (Sundry debtors) for the year 2007-08 stood at Rs. 7482.81 crore instead of Rs. 7502 crore as per the duly audited Annual Accounts. Break up of the amount under sundry debtors is as follows :-

(i)	Exceeding 6 months	-	Rs. 6210.06 crore
(ii)	upto 6 months	-	Rs. 1272.75 crore
			Rs. 7482.81 crore

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. An amount of Rs. 4226 crore out of revenue arrears is considered doubtful. This is as per accounting policy of BSNL according to which debts outstanding for more than 2 years are considered as doubtful.

The biggest defaulters are private customers under basic services, who owed an amount Rs. 4173.63 crore as on 31.03.2008. The details are as follows

(Rs. in crore)

Service	Telephone	Telex	Phone Circuit	Telegraph Circuit	Total
Amount	3817.99	6.72	287.39	61.53	4173.63

BSNL has been taking following steps to effect recovery of outstanding dues from its customers on regular basis :-

(1) Payment reminders through IVRS and SMS are being issued to persuade the customers to make payment before disconnection of their telephones. Phones are disconnected as per the schedule in case of non-payment of dues by customers.

(2) Connections remaining disconnected for non-payment even after expiry of 3 months period are permanently closed and accounts regularized by adjusting Security deposit, if any available.

(3) Scheme for apppointment of Private Recovery Agents for recovery of outstanding dues has been introduced.

(4) Graded discount scheme regarding grant of discount to defaulting customers, for clearance of old outstanding dues has been introduced.

(5) Incentive scheme to employees of BSNL for recovery of outstanding arrears from defaulters has also been introduced.

(6) Legal proceedings, wherever required, are initiated against the defaulters for recovery of dues.

(7) A scheme for settlement of outstanding dues through Lok Adalats has also been introduced.

(8) The State Governments have been requested to amend their respective land revenue acts so that the defaulted Telephone dues of BSNL can be recovered as land revenue arrears.

(9) Circle-wise and Year-wise target for liquidation of outstanding dues are fixed to get the maximum realization and the progress in this regard is closely monitored and units are addressed periodically to take all necessary steps to recover the same.